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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Turkish Intellectuals Call for 'Common Sense' Against Rising  
Nationalism - Milliyet  
Talabani Opposes Saddam's Execution - Hurriyet  
Second Anniversary of Saddam's Removal Face Largest Protest  
Demo Against US - Sabah 4/10  
Iraqi Shiites Urge US Troops to 'Go Home' - Milliyet 4/10  
Peter Galbraith: Kurds Seek Independence in Iraq - Sabah  
4/10  
Withdrawal Opponents Rise Tension in Jerusalem - Aksam  
Germany Considers Banning Hizbullah - Aksam 4/10

##### OPINION MAKERS

Thousands of Al-Sadr Loyalists Call for Ending US Occupation  
- Radikal 4/10  
Greek Cypriots Want UN Guarantees for New Cyprus Talks -  
Zaman  
Tense Day in Jerusalem, Police Arrest Fundamentalists Jews -  
Radikal  
Radical Jews Stir Tension in Middle East - Zaman  
Former MOSSAD Chief Warns of Possible 'Coup' Against Sharon  
- Yeni Safak  
Al-Baradei: Al-Qaida Seeks Nuclear Weapons - Yeni Safak  
US Closes Embassy in Yemen - Cumhuriyet 4/10

#### BRIEFING

President Sezer's Upcoming Visit to Syria: Problems with  
Iran and Syria will be discussed during the upcoming visit  
of Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) U/S Ali Tuygan  
to Washington this week, writes weekend "Cumhuriyet." The  
US is concerned about the April 13-14 visit to Syria by  
President Sezer, particularly at a time of increasing  
pressure on Damascus with regard to Lebanon, the paper  
comments. US officials welcomed a recent speech by  
President Sezer at a War Academy conference in Ankara in  
which the Turkish President urged Syria to meet expectations  
of the international community. The US wants Sezer to issue  
warnings in front of the public while in Syria, but Turks  
prefer to convey the message behind closed doors, says  
"Cumhuriyet." Sunday's "Yeni Safak" expects Sezer to urge  
Syrian leaders to withdraw troops and intelligence units  
from Lebanon by the end of April and cut ties with radical  
groups. The paper says that Ankara is concerned that  
political instability may lead to civil strife in Lebanon.

Turkey Deports Syrian Army Defector: Sunday's "Radikal"  
reports on its front page that Muhammed Ibrahim, a Kurdish  
Syrian who defected from the Syrian army last August 23 year  
after the incidents in the mainly Kurdish Syrian border town  
of Qamishli, has been sent by Turkey to Syria on March 25.  
Ibrahim had applied for political asylum in Turkey on March  
123. He was taken to court the next day on charges of being  
a member of the outlawed PKK, but was released the same day.  
Ankara ignored efforts by the UNHCR and Amnesty  
International (AI), and sent Ibrahim back to Syria on March  
125. NGOs believe the extradition of Ibrahim was rushed  
before the upcoming visit to Syria by President Sezer. NGO  
officials find it 'unacceptable' that Ibrahim was extradited  
to Syria, a country with a poor human rights record, says  
"Radikal." AI in Turkey said Ibrahim faces the risks of  
mistreatment, torture, unfair trial and execution in Syria.  
"Radikal" claims that Turkish police handed Ibrahim over to  
Syria without notifying the Presidency.

FM Gul on Tuygan Visit to US, Incirlik Airbase: Responding  
to press en route to Algeria on Saturday, FM Abdullah Gul  
said reviewing of US requests for using Incirlik Airbase for  
logistical operations in Iraq and Afghanistan continues, and  
the issue will not be taken to the parliament for approval.  
There are changes to the US government in the second Bush

term, Gul noted, and added that Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) U/S Ali Tugyan went to the United States at the invitation of Washington for meetings with the new US Administration. Gul stressed that there is a will to deepen expectations and relations between the United States and Turkey. Monday's "Yeni Safak" quotes Gul as saying the US request regarding Incirlik Airbase is nothing 'unacceptable.' 'The US wants support for its operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to be facilitated further', Gul said, 'and we will soon decide on it.' Gul added that Turkey would not grant the US a 'blank check' on the use of Incirlik and that all information regarding U.S. flights in and out of the airbase will be given to Turks beforehand.

Gul on Ties With Israel, Iraq, and Rising Nationalism in Turkey: In an exclusive with the Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak," FM Gul urged everybody to contribute to peace efforts in the Middle East to put an end to bloodshed in the region. PM Erdogan's upcoming visit to Israel is important from that viewpoint, Gul stressed. He said Palestinians should be allowed to establish a state, adding that Sharon has some 'intentions' to that end, and that such endeavors should be supported. On Iraq, Gul finds Talabani, the newly elected President of Iraq, 'enthusiastic' about rebuilding Iraq and developing ties with Turkey. Gul said that 'sectarian' conflict still poses a major threat in Iraq. Gul characterized the rising nationalist sentiment in Turkey as 'chauvinist reflexes' rather than a 'wave of nationalism': 'There are some arbitrary actions caused by lack of self-confidence. Everything will be settled soon.'

Turkish NGOs, Intellectuals Warn Against Rising Nationalism: Turkish NGOs and 200 intellectuals, academics and journalists issued a joint statement on Sunday calling for common sense and moderation in the face of rising Turkish and Kurdish nationalism. The declaration condemned the attempted lynching of four young Turks who were mistaken for being backers of the PKK in the port city of Trabzon in northern Turkey early last week, and denounced the subsequent detention of the victims rather than the assailants. A provincial governor (kaymakam) who has attempted to destroy books of renowned Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk still keeps his post, says the declaration. The declaration warns that the state is supporting the escalation of nationalism, Monday papers report.

Turkey-Syria Border to Be Cleared of Landmines: Sunday "Zaman" says on its front page that the Ministry of Finance has received proposals from various companies for sweeping some 600,000 landmines laid along Turkey's border with Syria. According to the report, the area will be used for farming and establishing free trade zones after the mines are cleared.

Arinc Remarks on Disputes Between Turkey-Greece: FM Abdullah Gul said en route to Algeria over the weekend that Parliamentary Speaker Bulent Arinc's remarks on the territorial waters dispute between Turkey and Greece should be regarded as an attempt to solve problems in the Aegean. Gul said Turkey and Greece have a will for resolution of problems in peaceful ways. 'We should show our capacities for a solution,' Gul said, adding that steps forward are being taken to that end. Arinc last Friday proposed the lifting of a 1995 'casus belli' against Greece if Athens exercised its right under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to extend its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles. Papers report Arinc as saying over the weekend and today that good will gestures between Turkey and Greece are needed, and that political conditions had to be reviewed to make a breakthrough in diplomacy. The opposition CHP strongly criticized Arinc, and said that problems cannot be resolved by making concessions. Greek Parliament Speaker Anna Psarouda-Benaki welcomed the remarks of Arinc, reports "Sabah" over the weekend. Arinc said before leaving for an official visit to Luxembourg on Sunday that foreign policy should not be stagnant, and that new gestures may be needed when conditions change.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Talabani

"The Other Possibility in Iraq"  
Erdal Guven observed in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (4/10): "Iraq has the potential to become a stable democratic nation, but there is also another possibility, which is civil war and division of the country, and this possibility should not be underestimated. It does not come as surprise to read warnings regarding the latter scenario from two prominent Iraq experts, Peter Galbraith from the US and Amatzia Baram from Israel..An evaluation of the potential dangers that Iraq faces brings to mind a question. Which country, other than Iraq itself, will be very negatively affected in the event of instability in Iraq? The answer, certainly, is Turkey. The prospect of an Iraqi Kurdish independence movement is a nightmare for Turkey. Similarly, Ankara will be negatively impacted in the event

of Shiite fundamentalism in Iraq. Any movement toward deepening instability and division will create political, economic and strategic problems for Turkey. Therefore, it is very much in Turkey's immediate interest to formulate a comprehensive policy for Iraq. In order to do so, Turkey must abandon its current skepticism regarding the new process in Iraq and concentrate on promoting a federal, democratic and well-developed Iraq. Iraq is in the process of a renewal. And Turkey needs to renew its Iraq policy."

"New Iraq Policy"

Cuneyt Ulsever advised in the mass appeal Hurriyet (4/11): "Iraq will face two possibilities under Talabani's new leadership. One possibility is a united Iraq with a loosely based federation. The other is the division of Iraq, perhaps into two or three parts. The possibility of division should be taken very seriously. . There are many players in Iraq, not only those inside -- Shiite, Sunni and Kurd -- but also outsiders, such as Iran and Syria. A united Iraq is certainly in the interest of US policy because it is an indispensable part of the Broader Middle East Initiative. Since the Iraqi elections, it appears that the European countries have also leaned toward supporting a unified Iraq. Turkey's interest, it goes without saying, lies in a unified Iraq with its territorial integrity intact..However, Turkey, with its old-fashioned wait-and-see type of policies, fails to deal with the current international situation. Turkey fails to correctly interpret the changing events. The region surrounding us is changing, and Turkey definitely needs new wisdom."

EDELMAN